

Mr. Speaker, as members and supporters of Friends of Light Rail and Transit gather to celebrate this milestone, and their many achievements over the last 25 years, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting these fine individuals for their excellent work and commitment to our community.

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE  
OF ROBERT "BAT" BATINOVICH

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2012*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Bat" Batinovich, a special friend and extraordinary citizen who passed on September 11, 2012, on the Big Island of Hawaii surrounded by his loved ones. He is survived by his wife Garnet, son Andy (Debbie), daughter Angela, and grandchildren Kyle and Kelly Cotchett, Alexa Batinovich and Avery Bysouth, brother Ken (Annette), many wonderful cousins and scores of friends.

Robert Batinovich was born July 13, 1936, in Long Beach, California, to Matthew and Margaret Batinovich. He attended St. Anthony's High School and worked as a tuna fisherman in South America.

A resident of Hillsborough and a highly trusted and respected businessman, "Bat" was the founder of Glenborough Corporation based in San Mateo, California, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Glenborough Realty Trust Inc. a Real Estate Investment Trust through his retirement. He spent seven years as an executive with Norris Industries, after which most of his business life was devoted to entrepreneurial and venture capital activities primarily through the start-up or acquisition, operation, and ultimate sale, of a variety of businesses.

Between 1976–1980, "Bat" served on the California Public Utilities Commission, and for the last two years of his service, he was President. He served on the California State Board of Transportation in 1977, and the Health Facilities Authority in 1981. He also served on the Board of Farr Company and the Advisory Board of Greater Bay Bank Corp., Palo Alto, California. His love of charities led him to support Community Gatepath, Georgetown University, The Samaritan House and Catholic Charities. He loved people and lived a full life, contributing significantly as a public servant and a businessman. He always led by example and integrity. He was universally respected for his compassion, his caring, his drive, and his generosity, and it was a privilege to call him my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to "Bat's" beloved wife, Garnet, and their entire family. "Bat" was a strong leader, businessman, philanthropist and public servant who brought much joy to the lives he touched, strengthened his community and bettered the Nation he loved so much. His life and his contributions are worthy of this tribute we pay to him today.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. MARC  
LEVENSON'S RETIREMENT

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2012*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, 2012 Dr. Marc Levenson will retire from the VA Medical Center after 24 years of faithful service to our State's veterans. Dr. Levenson began his medical career practicing Internal Medicine at the University of North Carolina Medical Center in Chapel Hill and then went on to serve as Vice President and Senior Physician at Jackson River Internists in Virginia.

After his time in private practice, he joined the VA Health Care System in Pennsylvania before making a permanent place in the New England VA Health Care System. Dr. Levenson began his career in Manchester as the Chief of Staff and after 12 years in this position was promoted to Director of the Manchester VA Medical Center in 2000. Since that time he has led the VAMC with dedication and integrity, bringing the best care and services possible to our State's veterans.

He has helped to improve and initiate several clinics including Ophthalmology, Audiology, Dermatology and Podiatry Care. His efforts also focused on implementing Primary Care Mental Health Integration and expanding the Home Based Primary Care Program to the Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout the State. He has also stepped in to help out at other Medical Centers in White River Junction, Vermont and Bedford, Massachusetts when these facilities were transitioning between directors.

Dr. Levenson has been a great leader for our veterans here in New Hampshire and provided all of our veterans with the services and care they need when transitioning back from active duty to civilian life, and into their later years. His work has been outstanding and is greatly appreciated. I congratulate Dr. Levenson on his well earned retirement and thank him for his outstanding support of our veterans in New Hampshire and New England.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S 101ST  
NATIONAL DAY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Taiwan's 101st National Day on October 10, 2012. This event marks the anniversary of the 1911 uprising that led to the establishment of the Republic of China.

Under President Ma Ying-jeou's leadership, Taiwan has made great strides in improving relations with mainland China, which has contributed to reduced tensions in the region overall. Furthermore, through the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, millions of citizens in both nations have benefited. China and Taiwan are continuing to pursue productive and peaceful negotiations to ensure a better future for their citizens, and cross-

strait relations are better now than they have ever been.

The United States should support and assist Taiwan in building on its recent successes and playing a greater role in international organizations, such as the World Health Assembly. Taiwan is also on the road to gaining membership in the International Civil Aviation Organization. This important progress should be recognized and encouraged.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is an important ally to the United States, an outpost of democracy and freedom, and plays a critical economic role in the region. Millions of Americans buy Taiwanese products, and Taiwan is an export destination for a wide range of American products, from agriculture to raw materials to technology. The Taiwanese people are committed to hard work and democratic values, as well as productive and peaceful international relations. I offer my sincere congratulations on their 101st National Day, and look forward to celebrating Taiwan's future successes.

HONORING TEAM ACADEMY

**HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 28, 2012*

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of TEAM Academy in Waseca, Minnesota.

On September 7th, TEAM Academy was named one of two schools from the First District of Minnesota to be designated as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School.

This award recognizes exemplary schools like TEAM Academy where students have made significant progress. Schools that receive this award truly exemplify the belief that every child has promise and must receive a high quality education.

As a teacher on leave from Mankato West, I know that achieving success for all students takes a commitment from the entire school, from the principal to the counselors to the teachers. Their dedication every day toward success and achieving a higher goal motivates students to do their best.

This is exactly what TEAM Academy has done for its students. Under the leadership of Director Jill Ladwig, the school practices individualized learning in small groups, and focuses on reading, mathematics and exposure to art, Spanish, physical education and music. Every day, students walk into an environment where they are encouraged to reach their full potential, become a productive member of society, and understand the importance of post-secondary education.

This award recognizes what the Waseca community already knows—TEAM Academy is a place where every student, no matter their background or ability, can fulfill their potential.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring TEAM Academy for its dedication to the students of Waseca.